GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4882
ANSWERED ON:31.03.2017
Insurance for Rare Diseases
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of provisions in insurance laws that put patients suffering from rare diseases at a disadvantage as compared to other patients and that such provisions are used to exclude such patients from insurance cover; and
(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to rectify the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) (Health Insurance) Regulations, 2016 (HIR 2016) facilitate offering of innovative covers by insurers, one of which is the concept of "pilot products'. This is introduced with a view to give scope to innovation for covering risks that have not been offered hitherto or stand excluded in the extant products.
Further it has been specified in HIR, 2016 that underwriting policy of insurers shall cover aspects relating to offering health insurance coverage not only to standard lives but also to sub-standard lives.
The product design is in the realm of the insurance companies and acceptance of any risk or offering of any benefit is subject to terms and conditions of the product and board approved underwriting policy of the insurers. It is necessary that the products designed by the insurance companies are financially viable and sustainable in order to enable them to discharge their liabilities towards claims as and when they arise.

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